



**PASTORAL ASSISTANTS
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2019**

**TRAINING MORNINGS FOR ALL
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS
AND PASTORAL VISITORS**

Thursday 26th March 2020

St Matthew's Burnley, St Matthew's St, BB11 4LZ

Or

Saturday 28th March 2020

St Leonard's Penwortham, Marshalls Brow,
Preston, PR1 9JA

Both days: 10.00am – 1pm; registration from 9.30am

Booking forms enclosed: please return to Rosie Strachan
by Wednesday 11th March

Mandy Stanton, Lay Leadership Officer, Diocesan Offices, Clayton House, Walker Office Park,
Blackburn BB1 2QE

Email: mandy.stanton@blackburn.anglican.org Tel: 01254 503084

**FROM THE WARDEN OF PASTORAL ASSISTANTS,
MRS MANDY STANTON**

Dear Colleagues,

I have recently become involved in the 'Life is Good' challenge on Facebook. These challenges crop up at intervals on social media – recent ones have involved people posting photos of drama productions they've been involved in or covers of books they've enjoyed, over a period of days, and nominating other people to join in. I got pulled into this one by my niece, and the challenge is to post a different photo every day for 10 days that says to you that life is good.

It's helpful to remind ourselves that 'life is good', especially at a time of year when life often feels quite stressful and busy. Perhaps this makes it easier to help others who don't feel that life is particularly good, especially those of us who may find Christmas difficult for various reasons, or suffer from SAD or 'winter blues'. But if we think about it, we can nearly always find something to remind us that 'life is good', despite the difficulties. It might be a pet, or a meeting with friends; a card or a message; an activity we enjoy, a glimpse of the natural world, or good food or drink. And hopefully we can also remember that we have a loving God, who wants good things for us and will also walk alongside us when life is hard.

The Basic Pastoral Skills course, which we began to run in 2017, has proved popular: we have now run the course eight times in different places, and the feedback has been very positive. The course covers: what pastoral care is; human needs and pastoral relationships; and listening to ourselves, God and each other. Each course also includes Safeguarding training, presented by a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding team. If you have pastoral visitors or potential visitors in your church who would like some input, please do contact me – we can usually arrange to run the course locally at a time to suit you, if at least six people are interested.

We now have Deanery Chaplains for PAs and Pastoral Visitors in most of our Deaneries; a list is at the back of this newsletter.

The 'Autumn Leaves' Quiet Day held on Saturday 2nd November at Preston, led by Sister Sue Williams of the Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary, gave those who attended the opportunity to reflect on the ideas of light and dark and letting go, in companionship with each other and in the presence of God.

The next Training Day will again be run twice (with the same content both times) in different locations, on Thursday 26th March in Burnley and Saturday 28th March in Penwortham, for the morning only. The topic this year is 'Shall we pray? A morning to explore ways of gaining confidence in praying with people in a pastoral setting', and the mornings will be led by Fr Neil Kelley, Rector of St Laurence Chorley and one of the tutors on the Basic Pastoral Skills course, and Revd Nick Mansfield, Vicar of St Leonard's Penwortham, Leyland Deanery Chaplain for PAs and Diocesan Warden of Spiritual Directors. Details and booking form are enclosed with this newsletter.

Thank you for all you do to help others, and I hope you are able to know that life (and ministry!) are good.

Mandy Stanton

NEW PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

The following Pastoral Assistants have been commissioned:

Judith Blan from Standish St Wilfrid on 27 Oct 2019

Jayne Woollam from Grimsargh St Michael on 1 Sept 2019

PASTORAL ASSISTANT EMERITUS

The following Pastoral Assistants have taken Emeritus status:

Rona McClure from Hoole St Michael after 3 years' service

Jacqueline Leather from Darwen St Peter after 13 years' service

A list of Chaplains and their contact details can be found below:

Accrington

Revd. Toby Webber
Altham with Clayton-le-Moors
tobywebber@btinternet.com
01254 384321

Blackburn with Darwen

Revd. Andrew Horsfall
Royal Blackburn Hospital
andrew.horsfall@elht.nhs.uk
01254 736849

Blackpool

Revd. Deborah Prest
Greenlands St Anne/St Paul North
Shore
deborahprest@icloud.com
01253 353900

Burnley

Revd. Alex Frost
Burnley St Matthew with Holy
Trinity
alextheanglican@hotmail.com
01282 411860

Chorley

Revd. Cath Gabriel
Standish St Wilfrid
smartlew@sky.com
01257 253345

Garstang

Revd. Jane Atkinson
Little Thornton St John the
Evangelist
revjaneatkinson@sky.com
01253 969492

Kirkham

Revd. Deborah Prest
As Blackpool Deanery

Lancaster & Morecambe

Revd Lorraine Moffatt
Overton St Helen
lozmof55@gmail.com
01524 858234

Leyland

Revd. Nick Mansfield
Penwortham St Leonard
nickthevicl@gmail.com
01772 742367

Pendle

Revd. Alex Frost
As Burnley deanery

Poulton

Revd. Jane Atkinson
As Garstang Deanery

Preston

Vacant

Tunstall

Vacant

Whalley

Revd. Chris Holden
Rishton St Peter & St Paul
cholden78@hotmail.com
01254 883996